

Remarks/Arguments:

Amendments

The Abstract has been amended to indicate the invention now claimed. The specification has been amended to correct obvious typographical errors and to agree with amended claims 20 and 21.

Claims 1-19 have been canceled.

The claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention by correcting obvious typographical errors, introducing conventional transition phrases and Markush terminology, and providing proper antecedent basis. As suggested by the Examiner, claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the relevant limitations of claim 20, as amended. Claim 21 originally depended on claim 20. Other amendments suggested by the Examiner have been made.

If necessary, support for the amendment to claim 26 is found on page 11, lines 23-26. Support for the amendment to step (e) of claim 20 is found in original claim 34, which depends on claim 20 and recites nitric acid and hydrochloric acid, which are not organic acids. In claims 26-30, "colloidal silica" and "colloidal silica sol" have been amended to "acidified ammonium polysilicate" to provide antecedent basis.

Support for new claim 36 is found in original claim 23. Support for new claim 37 is found in original claims 31-33. Support for new claim 38 is found in original claims 22, 23, 31-33, and 35. Support for new claims 39-51 is found in original claims 22-28 and 30-35, as amended, respectively. Support for new claim 52 is found in original claim 23. Support for new claim 53 is found in original claims 31-33. Support for new claim 54 is found in original claims 22, 23, 31-33, and 35.

It is submitted that no new matter is introduced by these amendments and new claims.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this communication.

Claim Objecti ns

The claims objected to have been either canceled or amended to overcome the objections. It is submitted that these objections have been overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

The rejected claims have been either canceled or amended to overcome the rejections. It is submitted that these rejections have been overcome.

Rejections under 35 USC 103

The claims rejected under 35 USC 103 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-35 were indicated allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections and the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. These claims have been rewritten and/or amended. It is submitted that these claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Claims 36-38, dependent on claim 20 have been added. It is submitted that these claims are in condition for immediate allowance as claims dependent on an allowed claim.

Claim 21 was rewritten in independent form and claims 39-54 added. It is submitted that new claims 36-54 are in condition for immediate allowance as claims dependent on an allowed claim.

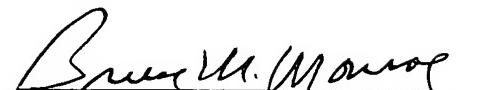
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to phone applicants' attorney if it is believed that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite prosecution of the application.

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KUM-107US

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 2-13-04

Enclosure: Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and one (1) reference

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

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